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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad hoc Working Group on Trade,
Environment and Development
First session
Geneva, 28 November 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. International co-operation on eco-labelling and eco-certification programmes

   (a) Comparative analysis of current and planned programmes, with a view to discussing concepts such as mutual recognition and equivalencies;

   (b) Examination of possible ways to take into account the interests of developing countries in the elaboration of eco-labelling criteria*

4. Market opportunities for "environmentally friendly" products

   - Ways and means to define and certify environmentally friendly products

5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Trade and Development Board.

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* The outcome of the discussion on this item at the first session will be taken up by the Working Group at a subsequent session when it comes to deal with paragraph 1 of its terms of reference on the effects of environmental policies, standards and regulations on market access and competitiveness.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with past practice in UNCTAD, it is proposed that the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group consist of 7 members (a Chairman, 5 Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur), to be elected in accordance with the following geographical distribution: 4 from lists A and C combined, 2 from list B and 1 from list D.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Working Group will have available five working days from 28 November to 2 December 1994. Throughout the session, interpretation facilities will be available. At the first meeting, on 28 November 1994, an opening statement will be made by the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD or his representative. The rest of the session will be primarily devoted to items 3 and 4 of the agenda.

Item 3 : International cooperation on eco-labelling and eco-certification programmes

The secretariat's report (TD/B/WG.6/2), which covers both items 3 and 4 of the agenda, serves as a background for the deliberations. The report contains (i) a comparative analysis of current and planned schemes, with a view to discussing concepts such as mutual recognition and equivalencies; and (ii) an examination of the possibilities for taking into account the interests of developing countries in the elaboration of eco-labelling criteria. At the opening of the session, supplementary documentation will be made available as miscellaneous reports. Representatives of some international organizations including UNEP, GATT and ISO will make presentations. Members of the Group are encouraged to report on national experiences, taking into account the analysis and recommendations contained in the secretariat's report.

Item 4: Market opportunities for "environmentally friendly" products

This agenda item is intended as a follow up to the discussions under item 3. The secretariat's report (TD/B/WG.6/2) investigates ways and means for identifying and certifying environmentally friendly products. In addition, report TD/B/CN.1/25 on "Identification of means by which the competitiveness of natural products with environmental advantages could be improved - reducing the environmental stress of consumption without affecting consumer satisfaction", prepared for the third session of the Standing Committee on Commodities, will be made available as additional background documentation. National experiences of when it has been particularly difficult or easy to market environmentally friendly products will throw new light on this issue. It is thus recommended that national presentations provide examples in order to be able to arrive at suggestions for marketing "environmentally friendly" products.

Group members are requested to hand in national presentations they have brought with them at the latest by 5.00 p.m. on 28 November so that they can be included in the informal documents which will be issued by the secretariat on the following day.

Item 5: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group

A draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group will be submitted in the light of the discussions at this session.

Item 6: Other Business

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Working Group will be considered by the Trade Development Board at the pre-sessional executive session prior to the second part of the forty-first session (Spring 1995).